

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Aftermath of the War: Iran in World Politics

oward the end of the war in Europe the struggle between opposing forces in Iran became more intense. The Iranian nationalist press took up the problem of the evacuation of Allied troops and insisted that these troops should leave Iran as soon as possible. The nationalists knew that according to the Tripartite Treaty Russia and Britain were entitled to keep their troops until six months after the end of war with the Axis, which included also Japan, as yet unconquered. Yet they argued that the purpose for which foreign troops came to Iran was no longer valid. This purpose was to send supplies to Russia, but from November, 1944, the Persian Gulf Command practically ceased its supply operations, owing to the opening of the Black Sea to the Allied fleets. On the other hand, the press advanced the theme of complete neutrality to which Iran should return as soon as the war was over.¹ These nationalist attitudes found their official expression on May 19, 1945, in a demand of the Iranian government to Britain and Russia to withdraw their troops. In reply the British and Soviet Embassies made it clear that foreign troops were not legally obliged to leave the territory

of Iran before
the agreed deadline. Yet, essentially, the British
favored the Iranian
point of view since it was similar to their own. In the
spring of 1945
the British had already begun withdrawal from many
fields of their
activities. Wherever they could the British tried to
secure an agree-
ment with the Russians for simultaneous withdrawal,
but lacking it

i *Ra'd-i-Emruz*, May 27, 1945; *Journal de Tehran*, Aug. 9 and
19, 1945.